

THE
FATAL CONSEQUENCES
OF

DOMESTICK DIVISIONS

Especially in the



Families of PRINCES:

Illustrated by divers EXAMPLES from the
Histories of our own and other Nations.

WITH

REMARKS on the Conduct of Evil Counsellors
and Ministers, the usual Fomenters of
such DIVISIONS.

MATT. XII. 25.

*Every Kingdom divided against itself, is brought to
Desolation; and every City or House divided against
itself, shall not stand.*

L O N D O N :

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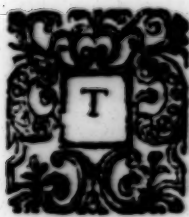
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THE
FATAL CONSEQUENCES
OF
FAMILY QUARRELS.



TH A T Divisions in any Family must necessarily be attended with the most pernicious Consequences, if not the entire Destruction of that Family, is a Truth so self-evident, and whereof every Body must have seen such frequent melancholy Instances, that one would think it altogether needless to inculcate it into any one. Besides, did not our own Experience convince us hereof, the Oracle of Truth, our Saviour himself assures us, that *every Kingdom, divided against itself, is brought to Desolation, and every City, or House, divided against itself, shall not stand.* From whence we may see, that the Case is the same, in the Families of Princes, as in those of Peasants, and not only so, but even with whole Cities and Kingdoms.

Since the Effects, therefore, of Dissension are so fatal and destructive, it is amazing Men are not more upon their Guard against it: Ne-

vertheless every Day affords us fresh Instances of Sycophants and Pickthanks, who having insinuated themselves into the good Graces of Masters of Families, by officiously carrying Tales to and fro, have set the whole House in such a Flame, as has not been easily extinguished. The most dangerous of these, are those a Man entertains under his own Roof; such as his head Servants, who by their Places must have frequent Access to him, and by that Means get his Ear; against all others he may more easily be upon his Guard. These Emissaries of the Devil, however, take Care to find their Account therein; and may very justly be compar'd to those infernal Incendiaries, who set Houses on Fire, merely to make a Prey of the poor Sufferers, during the Confusion.

In order to this, if the least Difference happens in a Family, these Gentry are sure to widen the Breach; and endeavour by all Means, to render the Parties at Variance irreconcilable: And this they always do, under the Pretence of a sincere Friendship, and Zeal for those Persons, to whom they all the while endeavour to do the most irreparable Injury. The Means these Sycophants use to effect this, is, throughly to study the Humour of the Person, on whom they have a Design; and they leave no Stone unturned to discover his Blind Side: This done, if ever their Advice is asked upon any Point, they are sure to give that which they know will be most agreeable to their Patron; though they
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are sensible, at the same Time, it is contrary to his real Interest, and cannot fail of being attended with the most fatal Effects. By this Means, they gain an absolute Ascendant over him, and are certain to attain their own Ends, at the Expence of the Quiet of their Patron, and his whole Family.

But these Gentlemen would be sadly disappointed, if the Parties concerned did but calmly consider what was their own Interest; and at the same Time maturely examine, whether their Councillors had any By-Ends to serve, by the Advice they had given them. This is a Touchstone would never fail of discovering their selfish Views; such Persons never consulting any Thing but their own Advantage; of which they always take great Care not to lose Sight, and they always find their Account in fishing in troubled Waters.

In the mean while, their Advice being always agreeable to the Sentiments and Humour of the Person that asks it, and it being natural for every Man to have a good Opinion of himself, and to love to be confirmed in what flatters his Passions, these Scophants not only escape unsuspected, but are carested as the best and sincerest of Friends; by which Means they have the Opportunity of doing the more Mischief.

Were a Man, for Instance, of a haughty and imperious Temper, and could not bear the least Contradiction, and were to be incensed against his Wife and Children, for what he imagined a Disrespect to him; such
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Sycophants would preach up the absolute Authority every one ought to have over them, and the Homage they ought to pay him. Were he a Lover of good Company and his Bottle, and by that Means impaired his Health or Estate, and neglected his Family, which created Uneasiness at Home; they would tell him, he ought to be Master of his own Time and Actions, and was the best Judge of what was proper or not. Were he Amorous, and lavished away great Sums upon a favourite Mistress, to the Detriment of his Wife and Children, who complained thereof; they would suggest to him that it was beneath a Man to be governed, or stand in Awe of his Spouse; and that both she and her Children ought to acquiesce with whatever pleased a Father and a Husband. Were he Covetous, and had a Wife or Children who were of a generous Temper, and stinted them in their Expences, even to not allowing them what was any ways answerable to his Estate, and this caused Uneasiness; they would tell him, that his Allowance was very handsome, and more than sufficient, and that they were extravagant, and ought to be made bite of the Bridle; in short, they would applaud him in any Thing, were it ever so unreasonable, or unjust. On the contrary, were the grey Mare the better Horse, they would alter their Tone, insinuate themselves into her Favour, and tell her, nothing was more becoming a Woman, than to have a little Spirit, and not submit to every idle Whim of her Husband.

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It may be easily imagined what Divisions such Sycophants must necessarily create in Families, or at least if any happen, that they will contribute to make the Breach wider; it may also be easily judged what the fatal Effects thereof must be; from hence come endless Law-suits; Separations of Husbands and Wives; Disinheriting of Children, and perpetual Confusion. But if these are the melancholy Consequences of Diffension in private Families, how much more fatal and destructive must the Effects thereof be in the Families of Princes! How carefully ought it to be avoided! And what would they deserve who should foment any such Diffension?

Both sacred and prophane, antient and modern History affords numerous Instances of the pernicious and dreadful Consequences of Divisions in the Families of Princes. To begin with sacred History, the first Instance we have therein, is of *Saul*, who not only persecuted *David* his Son-in-law after a very inhuman and tyrannical Manner; but even went so far as to attempt the Life of his own Son *Jonathan*, by throwing his Javelin at him, for only being a Friend to *David*, and speaking in his Justification; when it is manifest that *David* was one of the most faithful Subjects his Father had, and nothing but Envy provoked *Saul* against him. Now had not *Jonathan* been one of ten Thousand, and feared the Lord greatly, as well as *David*, what must have been the Consequence of this Rupture? It is well known that *Jonathan* was the

the Darling of the Children of *Israel*; how easily then, in all probability, might he have dethroned his Father, who was grown odious, to the People by his Tyranny, especially after the Massacre of the Priests? Then, as to *David*, it is evident he had the Life of *Saul* twice in his Power; and though he did not lay hold of either of the Opportunities, and kill him, it is certain no one besides would have let such an Advantage slip; and this is not the less a Proof, how fatal this his Enmity to his Son-in-Law might have proved to *Saul*. Nay, as it was, it was very prejudicial to *Saul*, in depriving him of one of the best Officers, if not the very best he had; for who can tell what might have been the Event, had *David* not been forced to abandon him, and had fought on his Side in the last Battle, wherein *Saul* and his Sons lost their Lives? What is remarkable herein, is, that although it is certain that *Saul* first took Umbrage at *David*, from the Songs of the *Israelitish* Women, wherein they said, *Saul bath slain his Thousands, and David his ten Thousands*, yet it is more than probable, had not this Breach been made wider by the false Suggestions, and ill Advice of some Pick-thanks about *Saul*, that Time would have reconciled him to *David*. That there were such about him is manifest; for what else was *Doeg*, the *Edomite*, one of his Head-Servants? Besides *David* plainly insinuates as much, in his Expostulation with *Saul*. —
Now therefore let my Lord the King hear the

the Words of his Servant: If the Lord have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an Offering: But if they be the Children of Men, cursed be they before the Lord; 1 Sam. 19. Besides, had *Saul* had any but evil Counsellors about him, they would have endeavoured to have made up the Breach; and convinced him of the Unreasonableness of his Anger, as *David* had not committed the least Offence; but as he had few or none, but Sycophants who approached him, they gave him such Advice as they knew would be most acceptable to him; not such as was most for his Interest, for it was directly contrary thereto.

The next Instances of the fatal Effects of Divisions in the Family of Princes, are in the Reign of the great King *David* himself, and are pretty remarkable. *Amnon* the Eldest Son of that good Prince, falling violently in Love with *Tamar*, his half Sister, could not rest till he had enjoyed her; and not endeavouring to stifle his incestuous Passion, but giving Way to it, fell sick upon it. *Jonadab*, one of his Courtiers and Attendants, perceiving him to be greatly indisposed, pressed him to declare the Occasion thereof, which he accordingly did; upon which *Jonadab*, like all other base Deceivers, instead of exhorting him, as he ought to have done, to strive against his incestuous Flame, tho' he knew it would cause a fatal Rupture in the Royal Family, immediately put him in a Way how he might satisfy it. Now it is ob-

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servable,

servable, that before this infernal Counsellor had given *Amnon* this Advice, he, in a manner despaired of accomplishing his Will, for the Scripture says expressly, and *AMNON thought it hard for him to do any Thing to her*. It is probable, therefore, that in Time he might have called his Reason to his Aid, and have got the better of his vicious Inclinations; but this Emissary of the Devil having taught him the Method how to compass his Ends, regardless of the Consequences, he immediately put it in Practice: What was worse, however, if possible, than his ravishing his Sister, he had no sooner gained his Point, than he spurned her from him, and had her turned out of Doors, as something loathsome to him.

It was very natural for *Absalom*, her own Brother, highly to resent this Outrage; nay, it was next to impossible for him not to have done it; he was, nevertheless, so much Master of his Passion that he smothered it for two Years, and took no Notice of the Abuse to his Brother *Amnon* directly nor indirectly; well knowing that had he shewn his Anger, his Brother would have been upon his Guard, and it would not have been in his Power to have taken his Revenge for it. But at the Expiration of two Years, when *Amnon* thought all was forgotten, *Absalom* invited all his Brothers to an Entertainment, on Occasion of his having a Sheep-shearing, and he prevailed on his Father to let *Amnon* go amongst the rest. Having gained this Point, he ordered his Servants to observe when *Amnon* had
drank

drank pretty freely, not having any mistrust of any ill Design, and when he gave the Command, to kill him: This was done accordingly, and *Absalom* fled for Refuge to his Grandfather, with whom he staid three Years, till *David* sent for him back.

Now it is more than probable, that had not that evil Counsellor *Jonadab* put *Amnon* in a Way how to compass his Ends, he might in Time have got the better of his incestuous Passion; but as it was, it cost him his Life; and that at a Time when he had been drinking pretty freely, and consequently was by no means prepared for Death: And it is very remarkable, that notwithstanding *Jonadab* was the Man who advised *Amnon* how to accomplish his Will, yet he never forewarned him of the Danger he was in from *Absalom*; tho' it is evident from the Scripture itself that he knew *Absalom* was determined to be revenged of his incestuous Brother. This shews what Dependance there is to be had upon evil Counsellors; who after having drawn a Man into a Snare, always take care of themselves, and leave him to get out as he can. But this was not the only ill Consequence of this Rupture in *David's* Family; it proved fatal in the End to *Absalom* himself, and was very near proving fatal to *David*. For, had not *Amnon* forced *Tamar*, which probably was entirely owing to *Jonadab's* pernicious Advice, *Absalom* had never caused him to be murdered; and as *Amnon* was the eldest Son, and consequently Heir

apparent to the Crown, by Hereditary Right, *Absalom*, whilst he lived, would never have dared to enter into that unnatural Conspiracy, which brought him to an untimely End ; for it is evident he would never have aspired to the Throne, but that he was become the ~~Eldest~~ Son by the Death of *Amnon* ; neither is it to be supposed that the *Israelites* would have joined him in such Numbers, but that they thought he had the best Title, and had some Intimation of the King's Intent to prefer *Solomon* before him. This fatal Rupture, therefore, in the Royal Family, was not only the Cause of the untimely End of two of *David's* Sons, but, had not that Prince been immediately under the divine Protection, must infallibly have proved the Ruin of *David* himself : And all this was probably owing to the infernal Advice of a vile Counsellor, who sought only to curry Favour with *Amnon* for the present, entirely regardless of what might be the Consequence thereof.

We have yet another Instance in the House of *David*, of the fatal Effects of Ruptures in the Families of Princes ; and what makes it the more remarkable, is, that it was the immediate Consequence of the others ; it was this : *Adonijah*, another of *David's* Sons, was now become the eldest, by the untimely Ends of his two Brothers, *Amnon* and *Absalom* ; and the King being in a Manner Bedrid, through old Age, was incapable of discharging the regal Functions, and making any Opposition ; wherefore, this young Prince resolved

solved upon seizing on the Crown, as having the best Title to it, in order to prevent his Father's leaving it to his younger Brother *Solomon*, as he knew was his Intent. The Fruits of this was, that, as soon as *David* was informed thereof, he caused *Solomon* to be proclaimed King; which being told to *Adonijah*, who was then making a great Entertainment for the head Men of his Party, all his Guests abandoned him, and he fled himself to the Temple for Refuge, for Fear of *Solomon*, and caught hold on the Horns of the Altar. As no Blood had been shed, but the Rebellion was suppressed as soon as begun, *Solomon* pardoned him, for the present, and promised him his Life; but so jealous was *Solomon* of him afterwards, as having a very specious Title, that upon his only desiring *Abisbag* the *Shunamite* to Wife, (who, it is true, had lain in *David's* Bed to cherish him, and keep Heat in him, but of whom he had never had any carnal Knowledge) he commanded him to be immediately put to Death. Thus was this Rupture in *David's* Family, the Cause of the untimely End of three of his Sons; which in all Probability, might have been prevented, had *Jonadab* either advised *Amnon* like an honest Man, instead of humouring him like a Sycophant; or had he informed *David* of his incestuous Passion, who, no doubt, would have taken effectual Care to have prevented the ill Consequences thereof.

In the Example of *Saul*, *Jonathan*, and *David*, the first was undoubtedly solely in Fault;

Fault ; but, as we have already observed, had he had any honest Counsellors about him, he might in all Probability, have been prevented from proceeding to such Extrems as he did. In the second Instance the Sons of *David* were certainly criminal in the highest Degree ; and *Jonadab* no less : It must be confessed, however, that '*David* himself is not altogether excusable, for his prodigious Indulgence to his Children ; a Weakness, which is sometimes of as fatal Consequence, as the contrary Excess ; and of which it is to be feared, he had no one about him, who had Honesty and Courage enough to forewarn him : In short, we think it highly probable, that in all these Cases the Counsellors and Favourites on all Sides were to blame.

The last Instance we shall produce from Scripture, of the Fatality of Dissension in the Families of Princes, is *Sennacherib*, King of *Assyria*, a Prince, the most powerful of his Time ; who was the immediate Instrument of God, to execute his Vengeance upon the *Egyptians* and *Ethiopians* ; and whose Design was also to have wholly extirpated the Remains of the *Jewish* Nation, had he not been prevented by the immediate and miraculous Interposition of divine Providence, which slew, in one Night, a hundred, fourscore and five thousand Men. Enraged at this prodigious Loss and Disappointment, he returned into his own Country, breathing nothing but Fury ; and as he had not been able to vent it upon *Jerusalem*, seemed resolved to revenge himself

himself upon his own Subjects; for from that Time he grew so very cruel and tyrannical, that he rendered himself intolerable, even to his own Family. Insomuch that his two eldest Sons, *Adramelech*, and *Sharezar* joined in a Conspiracy against him, and slew him even in the Temple of his God *Nisroch*, as he was in the very Act of worshipping his false Deity.

Now was it not evidently the Duty of this Prince's Counsellors and Ministers to have advised him against Measures, whereby he rendered himself so insufferably odious and detestable? Had they acted this honest Part, they had both prevented his Death, and his two eldest Sons dying in Exile; but it must be confessed few Servants have that Integrity and Courage to give their Masters Advice, which they have Reason to think will be displeasing to them; on the contrary they generally sooth them up in their Humours, be they never so destructive.

How fatal were the Divisions in the Family of *Herod*! which cost the Life of divers of his Sons, and his entirely beloved Wife, the beautiful *Mariamne*, besides that of his Uncle *Joseph*, and *Sohemus*. This was manifestly owing to his being swayed by the pernicious Councils of his Mother *Cyprus*, and his Sister *Salome*; who were perpetually filling his Ears with abominable Calumnies. As to *Mariamne*, she was a Woman almost without Exception; and the Affection of her Husband to her was so great, that one would have

have thought it almost impossible to have brought him to consent to her Death; and yet the Malice of his Mother and Sister got the better thereof, and induced him to solicit her Condemnation with the utmost Vehemence: insomuch that the Judges whom he had appointed to try her, and whom he had pack'd for that Purpose, finding by the Earnestness which he prosecuted her in Person, that no other Sentence but that of Death would be acceptable to him, they accordingly pronounced her Condemnation, though she was entirely innocent of every Thing laid to her Charge.

How fatal were the Divisions in the Family of *Cambyfes* King of *Persia*, which not only cost the Lives of his Brother *Smerdis*, and his Sister *Meroe*; but proved fatal to himself, and paved the Way for an Impostor to ascend the Throne of *Cyrus*! What a Scene of Blood did the Rupture between *Artaxerxes Mnemon*, and his Brother *Cyrus* the younger, cause likewise in the *Persian* Court; and with what fatal Consequences was it attended? But above all, what a Torrent of Princely Blood did *Artaxerxes Ochus* shed, to secure himself the *Persian* Throne, which he had ascended by the Perpetration of the most flagrant Crimes; no less than a hundred Princes of the Blood being put to Death by that Monster in one Day, to rid him of his Fears of their supplanting him? Now in all probability, had any of these Princes had honest and disinterested Counsellors, they would
have

have prevented their engaging in such destructive Measures; but, on the contrary, we find their Ministers soothing them up in the most detestable Actions; witness *Prexaspes*, one of the Favourites of *Cambyfes*, who went so far in his Flattery, as to praise the Steadiness of that Prince's Hand, when he had just shot an Arrow through the Heart of his Son. Hereupon *Seneca*, who copied this Story from *Herodotus*, justly observes, that the cowardly and monstrous Flattery of the Father, was yet more base and detestable than the barbarous Cruelty of the Prince. Is it to be imagined that such a Sycophant would have the Courage to give his Master wholesome Advice? Accordingly we find this Wretch ready to execute any the most unjust of his Commands; even to the putting his Brother to Death, who was a Prince of great Hopes, only because *Cambyfes* dreamt one Night, that he sat upon his Throne. In effect, such Favourites, who upheld their Sovereigns in the Gratification of their Passions, have in all Ages and Nations prov'd their Masters Enemies, and a terrible Scourge to their Country.

We need not therefore confine ourselves to ancient History for numerous Instances of the fatal Consequences of such Divisions in the Families of Princes; modern History affords us too many melancholy Proofs thereof, and that even in our own Nation, and the Countries round about us. To go no higher than the Conquest, how fatal were the Diffensions

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between

between the three Sons of *William the Conqueror* ; which occasion'd the shedding a Sea of Blood, and proved fatal to *Robert* the eldest Brother ; who ended his Days in a Prison, where he had been close confined twenty six Years by his younger Brother *Henry*, who had usurped all his Dominions. Now we think it incontestable, that had this Prince, who neither wanted for good Sense or Learning, been bless'd with honest and courageous Counsellors, he would never have carried his Cruelty and Injustice to such an Excess, as to dispossess his elder Brother of his Dominions in *Normandy*, who had deserved better Usage at his Hands, after he had supplanted him, by seizing on the Crown of *England* ; and then to confine him, till Death put an end to his Troubles, after being imprisoned twenty-six Years.

After the Death of *Henry*, his Nephew *Stephen* ascended the Throne, to the Prejudice of the Empress *Matilda*, or *Maud*, *Henry's* only Child, notwithstanding he himself had been the first to acknowledge her as Heir to the Crown, and took an Oath of Fidelity to her in Case of the King her Father's Decease without Issue Male. It is easy to imagine, that such an Invasion of the Right of the lawful Heir, could not fail of occasioning a terrible Rupture, and a World of Blood-shed ; accordingly the Empress *Matilda* did not tamely put up with the Wrong, but vigorously asserted her Title, which created a bloody Civil War, wherein both Parties were alter-

alternately Conquerors and Conquered. At last, however, a Peace was made, on Condition that *Stephen* should hold the Crown during his own Life, but that after his Decease it should devolve to *Henry II.* Son to the Empress *Matilda*. Now though neither *Stephen* himself, nor the Empress, or her Son *Henry*, lost their Lives in this intestine War, yet the whole Kingdom were considerable Sufferers thereby, the Lands being all laid waste and ravaged, according as either Party got the better, insomuch that the poor People groaned under the most dreadful Oppression; all which would have been prevented, had not some of the most powerful Bishops, without whose Assistance *Stephen* could never have gained his Point, supported him in his unjust Claim, at the Expence of their Oaths, as imagining they should find their own Account in the Change. Thus was this Rupture in the Royal Family entirely occasioned by the want of Honour and Honesty both in *Stephen* himself, and his Counsellors; who having no Regard but to their Interest, did not at all care what Troubles and Calamities they brought upon the Nation, so they could but advance themselves thereby.

The next Reign affords us no less evident Instances, of the fatal Consequences of Divisions in the Families of Princes; *Henry II.* having ascended the Throne, after the Death of *Stephen*, pursuant to the abovementioned Agreement, he had not long been possessed thereof, before a Rupture happened between

him and his Brother *Geoffery*, which ended in his unjustly dispossessing that Prince of the Dominions left him by his Father. But this was nothing to the Troubles he met with afterwards, of which his Queen and Sons were the Authors. As to the Queen it is true he had given her some Cause of Complaint, by his being frequently false to her Bed, with several Mistresses; of whom the famous *Rosamond* having the greatest Ascendant over him, became the principal Object of the Queen's Jealousy: But as to his Sons, we don't find in History any Occasion their Father gave them for their undutiful and unnatural Behaviour; it must then be entirely imputed to the evil Counsels of the incensed Queen, and other pernicious Advisers. But let us hear what *Rapin* says upon this Head. " During
 " his Absence, a Conspiracy was formed a-
 " gainst him, so much the more dangerous, as
 " his Queen and his Sons were the Authors.
 " Besides, it was countenanced by some of the
 " principal Barons of the Realm, and several
 " foreign Princes. Queen *Eleanor* was moved to
 " it by her extreme Jealousy, of which the
 " King had given her but too just Cause.
 " Among his many Mistresses, fair *Rosamond*,
 " Daughter of the Lord *Clifford*, having the
 " greatest Ascendant over him, became the
 " principal Object of the Queen's Jealousy,
 " who could not help threatening her. *Hen-*
 " *ry* fancied he had secured her from all At-
 " tempts, by keeping her in a *Labyrinth*,
 " built on purpose at *Woodstock*. But his
 great

" great Care proved all in vain. Whilst he
 " was in *Normandy*, the Queen taking Ad-
 " vantage of his Absence, found Means to
 " dispatch out of the Way this hated Rival,
 " that created her so much Uneasiness. After
 " this Deed, despairing of ever regaining the
 " King's Affection, she pursued her Revenge,
 " and encouraged her Sons to revolt. *Henry*,
 " his eldest Son, a young Prince of an exceeding
 " haughty Temper, was weary of bearing
 " the Title of King without the Authority.
 " *Richard*, naturally turbulent and restless,
 " was tired with being under the Discipline
 " of the King, who indeed had made him
 " Earl of *Poictou*, but suffered him not to
 " enjoy that Favour. *Geoffrey* had still more
 " Cause to complain than his Brothers. He
 " saw himself deprived of the Government of
 " *Bretagne*, under the specious Title of a
 " Guardianship, for which he thought he had
 " no longer Occasion. It was not difficult
 " for these young Princes, to draw into the
 " Conspiracy several *English* Barons, who
 " hoped to enjoy more Credit and Authority
 " under young *Henry* than under his Father.
 " The King of *France*, ever jealous of *Hen-*
 " *ry's* flourishing Condition, very readily en-
 " gaged in the Project of dethroning him.
 " He was not satisfied with assisting the Princes
 " himself, but caused the Earls of *Flanders*,
 " *Boulogne*, and *Blois*, his Vassals, (the last
 " of whom was his Brother-in-Law) to enter
 " into the League. *William* King of *Scot-*
 " *land*, was prevailed with also, to be con-
 " cerned

“ cerned in an Undertaking, which might
 “ procure him an Opportunity, of recovering
 “ the Dominions, resigned by his Brother
 “ *Malcolm* to *England*. This Confederacy
 “ broke out on a sudden, when *Henry* least
 “ expected it. *Normandy*, *Guienne*, *Bre-*
 “ *tagne*, were attacked all at once by the
 “ Arms of the Confederates. The King of
 “ *Scotland*, and *England* were divided into
 “ two Parties, one for the young King, and
 “ the other for the Father.”

It is easy to imagine that *Henry* being at-
 tacked on all Sides at once, and by so power-
 ful a Confederacy, must necessarily be reduced
 to great Straits, and be in imminent Danger
 of being dispossest'd of all his Dominions;
 especially as he was at that Time wholly un-
 prepared for making any considerable Resi-
 stance; but the Event proved quite otherwise.
 After a Sea of Blood-shed, the Differences
 between the King and his Sons were seeming-
 ly made up, by Reason the Father had gained
 several considerable Advantages over them,
 and their Adherents; notwithstanding which,
 he generously granted a Pardon to all the Re-
 volters without Exception. This seeming Re-
 conciliation, however, did not last above seven
 Years before *Henry's* restless Sons were again
 concerting Measures to raise fresh Troubles,
 and even to deprive their Father of the Crown.
 There cannot be a more melancholy De-
 scription than *Rapin* gives us of the State of
 the Court of *England* at that Time.

“ Whatever Appearance of Tranquillity
 “ there

“ there was then in the Court of *England*,
 “ Ambition, Lust, Jealousy, in a Word, all
 “ the Passions that raise the strongest Emo-
 “ tions in the Heart of Man, exercised their
 “ Empire over the whole Royal Family.
 “ Young *Henry* was exceedingly dissatisfied
 “ with having the Title of King without the
 “ Power. The King his Father who had all
 “ his Life been a Slave to his Lust, had not
 “ lost his amorous Inclinations, though he
 “ was in his fiftieth Year. He was fallen in
 “ Love with *Alice* of *France*, designed for
 “ his Son *Richard*; and most Historians in-
 “ sinuate, the young Princess was too conde-
 “ scending. *Richard* demanded Leave to
 “ consummate his Marriage; but more to
 “ have a Pretence to complain, than from a
 “ Desire to espouse a Princess, suspected by
 “ all the World of a criminal Commerce with
 “ her future Father-in-Law. *Geoffrey*, be-
 “ ing now in his four and twentieth Year,
 “ was tired with being under the Guardian-
 “ ship of the King his Father, who on the
 “ specious Pretence of Protection, with-held
 “ *Bretagne* from him. *John* was still more
 “ displeased to have nothing settled upon him,
 “ whilst his Brothers were so well provided
 “ for. However, as the King shewed a
 “ great Affection for him, it was very proba-
 “ ble, before his Death he would provide for
 “ a Son he so tenderly loved. Queen *Elea-*
 “ *nor* was still a Prisoner, notwithstanding the
 “ Intercession of her Sons for her Release.

“ *Henry* was not ignorant of the Sentiments
 “ of

“ of his three eldest Sons ; though he care-
 “ fully concealed his Fears, he was apprehen-
 “ sive that another Conspiracy, like the for-
 “ mer, would rob him of the Crown in his
 “ old Age. To screen himself from their
 “ Practices, he believed the best Way wou’d
 “ be, to sow Discension among them, lest
 “ their Union should one Day prove fatal to
 “ him. For that Purpose, he hinted to his
 “ eldest Son, that his Brothers ought to do
 “ him Homage for the Dominions they pos-
 “ sessed, or, at least, bore the Titles of.
 “ The young King gladly embraced this Pro-
 “ posal, and resolved to demand Homage of
 “ his Brothers, but they were by no means
 “ disposed to comply. *Richard* affirmed
 “ the Dutchy of *Guienne*, which was to be
 “ his Portion, was not a Fief of the Crown
 “ of *England* ; and in that he was right.
 “ *Geoffrey* had not altogether the same Rea-
 “ son to be excused, since he knew the
 “ Dutchy of *Bretagne* was held of *Normandy*.
 “ But it was necessary the King should re-
 “ sign *Normandy* to his eldest Son, other-
 “ wise he had no Right to demand Homage.
 “ Mean Time, the Father had no Intention
 “ to divest himself of that Dutchy before his
 “ Death, whose Ambition was too well known
 “ to him. And therefore *Geoffrey* eluded
 “ his Brother’s Demand. He feigned, how-
 “ ever, to remain respectfully attached to the
 “ King his Father, though he privately held
 “ with his Brother *Richard*, whose Case was
 “ the same. Young *Henry*, whom the King
 “ his

" his Father, had politickly engaged in this
 " Dispute, soon discovered his Motives ; how-
 " ever he used a profound Dissimulation.
 " Whilst he pretended to be incensed with
 " his Brothers, he took private Measures
 " with them to bereave the King of the Su-
 " preme Power, which he had long wished
 " to be invested with. But God permitted
 " him not to pursue the Execution of his
 " unjust Design, a Distemper, which took
 " him out of the World, in the twenty-
 " eighth Year of his Age, freed the King
 " his Father from his impending Danger.
 " The young Prince was now gone to *Gui-*
 " *enne*, with Design to stir up the *Gascons*
 " to revolt, when he was seized with a slow
 " Fever, which constrained him to remain in
 " the Castle of *Martel* in *Quercy*. As soon
 " as he perceived his Illness grew daily more
 " dangerous. and that probably he should
 " never recover, he expressed great Concern
 " for all he had done, or projected against
 " the King his Father. He even desired to
 " see him, to give him Proofs of his Repen-
 " tance. Before he died, he had the Satisf-
 " faction of receiving a Ring sent him by the
 " King, in Token of his Pardon. If Histo-
 " rians have not aggravated the Prince's Re-
 " pentance, it appears to have been very sin-
 " cere. He shed Abundance of Tears upon
 " receiving the Ring, and finding himself then
 " at the Point of Death, caused himself to be
 " laid on a Bed, strewed with Ashes, habit-
 " ed in Sackcloth, with a Cord about his
 D " Neck,

“ Neck, and in that Posture gave up the
 “ Ghost. The Father’s Tenderness was re-
 “ newed when he heard of his Son’s Death.
 “ Though he had no Reason to be pleased
 “ with him, he shewed an extreme Concern
 “ for his Loss. But, in all Appearance, he
 “ was soon comforted.”

Before we proceed any farther in our Account of the fatal Consequences of the Dissensions in the Royal Family in this Reign, let us make a few Observations upon what has been already said. It is undeniably evident from what has been premised, that *Henry’s* three Sons had behaved in a very rebellious and unnatural Manner to their Father; it is also as manifest that the King had acted in a very generous Manner to them, in not only granting a Pardon to themselves, but also to all their Adherents, without Exception, tho’ their Attempt tended to no less than dispossessing him of all his Dominions; and yet we find them immediately ready to engage in another Rebellion, tho’ it does not appear that he had given them any fresh Provocation, or Cause of Rupture; and what adds to the Heinousness of their Crime is, that it is apparent he was an indulgent Father. To what then shall we ascribe this perverse and unnatural Behaviour of all *Henry’s* Sons? We say all, because we shall see hereafter, that his youngest Son *John*, for whom he had always a tender Regard, was as criminal as the rest. If it be said they were spirited up by the Resentments of the incensed Queen
 their

their Mother; it will seem very surprising that all the Sons in general should be so much byais'd in Favour of their Mother to the Prejudice of their Father, who was no unkind one, that nothing less would satisfy them than dethroning him. Besides, as she was close confined for many Years, and they had little or no Access to her, Time must necessarily have moderated their Resentments, had there not been some other evil Counsellors about the young Princes, who kept up and fomented the Division for their own private Interest. In Effect, *Rapin* as good as say as much, where he tells us, "It was not difficult for these young Princes, to draw into the Conspiracy several *English* Barons, who hoped to enjoy more Credit and Authority under young *Henry*, than under his Father." Now though *Rapin's* Expression seems to leave Room for a Suggestion, that the Princes themselves were the guilty Persons, in seducing the Barons from their Loyalty; in our Opinion, his Words can imply no more, than that, on the young Princes shewing themselves discontented, at the King's not allowing them more Power than he did, and threatening to join together, and raise Disturbances to force him to it; these Barons to whom they mentioned this to sound them, and ask their Sentiments thereupon, not only heard them with Approbation, instead of advising them against it, as was their Duty, but promised to join with them, and assist them to the utmost of their Power. This was all that

any evil Counsellor could do, in such a ticklish Case ; for is it to be imagined, that any Man in his Senses, would dare propose to a Son his rising in Rebellion against his Father, if he were not first well-assured, that the Son was sufficiently inclined thereto? In our Opinion, therefore, these wicked Counsellors were chiefly chargeable with all the Troubles of that Reign, and all the Calamities under which the poor People groan'd. For the Princes, who were all very young Men, the eldest of them being but Twenty-eight when he died, would never have ventured to engage in an Affair of that Consequence, without previously asking the Advice of their Favourites ; neither would they have been able to have made any great Stand, had not these Lords found the King full Employment on all Sides, by making a considerable Diversion, in their Favour, at Home, whilst they likewise gave him his Hands full abroad.

To return from whence we have digressed, the Death of young *Henry*, says *Rapin*, put a Stop for a while, to the Troubles that were going to disturb the Royal Family ; *Richard*, though naturally impetuous, remained some Time in Quiet, to see how the King would behave to him, since he was become his Heir Apparent ; but, in about two Years, he grew weary of a State so little agreeable to his Humour. He went into *Guienne*, where he took upon him to rule with an absolute Authority, without any
 “ Regard

“ Regard to the Orders of the King his Fa-
 “ ther. Herein he was supported by the
 “ *Gascons* themselves, who chose much ra-
 “ ther to have a Sovereign of their own, than
 “ to depend on the Crown of *England*. Af-
 “ ter having laboured some Time, to gain
 “ over that Province to his Interests, he went
 “ into *Poitou*, and drawing some Troops
 “ together, made War upon the *Britons*,
 “ who had disobliged him. *Geoffrey*, his
 “ Brother, who was then in *Bretagne*, sur-
 “ prised at this unexpected Attack, speedily
 “ levied a small Army, and gave him Battle;
 “ but, as his Forces were inferior in Num-
 “ ber, he was easily defeated. *Richard*
 “ would have pursued his Blow, if the Dread
 “ of his Father, who was preparing to come
 “ and chastise him, had not obliged him to
 “ retire into *Poitou*, where he pretended to
 “ stand upon his Defence. In the mean
 “ Time, *Henry*, perfectly knowing his Son’s
 “ Temper, which could not be tamed, but
 “ by Force, had prepared an Army suffici-
 “ ent to take away all his Hopes of Resist-
 “ ance. But before he proceeded to Extre-
 “ mities, he sent him Word, it was his ab-
 “ solute Command, that he should not con-
 “ cern himself any more with the Affairs of
 “ *Guienne*, which he could not enjoy till
 “ after the Death of his Mother, and upon
 “ that Condition, he would leave him in Pos-
 “ session of *Poitou*. But if he refused to
 “ obey, he would not only compel him to
 “ it, but likewise disinherit him of the Crown
 “ of

“ of *England*. *Richard*, terrified at these
 “ Threats, and the King’s great Preparations,
 “ thought fit to comply with his Will. But
 “ as this Submission was forced, he was un-
 “ easy in his Mind, the Effects of which soon
 “ became visible. The Example of *William*
 “ *the Conqueror*, who preferred his second
 “ before his eldest Son, seemed in some Mea-
 “ sure, to authorise the King thus to threaten
 “ *Richard*. Accordingly the young Prince
 “ could not forbear being concerned, in a
 “ Dread of being supplanted by one of his
 “ Brothers. This Consideration made him
 “ keep fair with the King his Father, and
 “ endeavour to curb his natural Impetuosity.
 “ But he was freed in Part from his Fears,
 “ by the Death of his Brother *Geoffrey* at
 “ *Paris*, where he was gone to assist at a
 “ Tournament.”

It is evident from hence, that *Richard*
 was so much Master of himself, that he could
 curb his natural Temper, as turbulent and
 fiery as it was, when he found it his Inte-
 rest so to do: Accordingly, he behaved in
 the same Manner twice afterwards, when he
 was made sensible that *Philip*, the *French*
 King, fomented the Dissention between his
 Father and him, only to make his Advan-
 tage of their Division and Misunderstanding.
 But the chief Reason thereof seems to be,
 that those who had before advised him to a
 Rupture, then counselled him to the contrary,
 because it was their Interest; since, had he
 been disinherited, it would not have been in
 his

his Power, to have either protected or rewarded them as they expected. What seems to confirm that, is this we find afterwards, when there was an open Rupture between the two Kings, and the War was carried on vigorously on both Sides, he went over to the *French* King, notwithstanding his Father had not given him any fresh Cause of Complaint. But the Reason was plain; he had made his own Terms with *Philip*, both for himself, and those who sided with him; and he was sensible, by joining with that Prince, they should be an overmatch for his Father; and consequently should be able to force him to a Peace, upon whatever Conditions they should be pleased to impose.

This accordingly happened, just as *Richard* had foreseen; for most of his Subjects in *France* having abandoned him, and joined with his Son, his Troops were defeated every where, and at length brought to so small a Number, that it was not in his Power to continue the War. Being reduced to this melancholy Condition, he prevailed on the Pope to interpose his Authority, in order to procure a Peace, on reasonable Terms; but this Method proved ineffectual. His Holiness indeed sent Legates into *France*, who threatened *Philip* with Excommunication, in Case he prevented the King of *England's* accomplishing his Vow of undertaking the Cross. These Menaces, however, had not the desired Effect; for the *French* Monarch replied fiercely, that the Pope had no Right to intermeddle

meddle in the Affairs of the Kingdom, especially when the Business in Hand was the chastising a Vassal, who had audaciously taken up Arms against him, adding, with an insulting Air, *He did not question but the Smell of the King of England's Sterlings made the Legates talk in that Strain.* Wherefore, *Henry* dreading the Consequences of so unfortunate a War, and finding the Pope could not do him any Service, was forced at last to agree to what Terms *Philip* was pleased to prescribe to him; the Principal whereof, according to *Rapin*, were these:

“ That all *Henry's* Subjects, both *English*
 “ and *French* should swear Fealty to *Richard*;
 “ and that those who had sided with
 “ the Son, should not return to the Father,
 “ 'till within one Month before he set out for
 “ the *Holy-Land*.

“ That the two Kings, with Prince *Richard*,
 “ should meet at *Vezelay*, in *le Nivernois*,
 “ in order to begin their Journey.

“ That all the King of *England's* Subjects
 “ should have free Passage all over
 “ *France*, paying only the old Customs.

“ That *Henry* should be obliged to pay the
 “ King of *France* twenty thousand Marks,
 “ for the Damages sustained in the War.

“ That all the Barons of the King of
 “ *England* should swear, that in case he violated
 “ the Treaty, they would assist the
 “ King of *France* against him.

“ That the Cities of *Tours* and *Mons* should
 “ remain

“ remain in the Hands of *Philip*, till the King
 “ of *England* performed all these Articles.

“ It was with the utmost Reluctance, that
 “ a Prince of so great a Spirit as *Henry*,
 “ stooped to such hard Conditions. The Re-
 “ membrance of the Advantages he had all
 “ along obtained over *France*, before this
 “ fatal War, instead of being any Comfort to
 “ him, serv'd only to render this Cup the
 “ more bitter. At the Heels of this Morti-
 “ fication follow'd another, against which he
 “ could not bear up. He discover'd, that
 “ during the late War, his beloved Son *John*
 “ held Intelligence with *Philip*, and was con-
 “ cerned in all his Brother's Plots, to de-
 “ throne a Father, who had ever shewn a
 “ tender Affection for him. His Grief thereat
 “ threw him into so violent a Passion, that
 “ he curs'd the Day of his Birth, utter'd Im-
 “ precations against his Sons, which the Bi-
 “ shops then present could never bring him
 “ to revoke. Shortly after he fell sick at
 “ *Chinon*, and perceiving his End was at hand,
 “ caus'd himself to be carry'd into the Church
 “ before the Altar, where, after confessing
 “ himself, and expressing some Signs of Re-
 “ pentance, he expir'd. His Eyes were no
 “ sooner clos'd, but his Domesticks all left
 “ him; nay, some had even the Insolence to
 “ strip him, and leave him quite naked in
 “ the Church. His Corpse was removed to
 “ *Fonteveraud*, where he was buried, ac-
 “ cording to his own Order. An extraordi-
 “ nary Accident rendered the Removal of

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“ his Body very remarkable. His Son *Ri-*
 “ *chard* coming to meet the Funeral Pomp,
 “ in order to attend his Father to his Grave;
 “ upon his Approach, the Blood gushed out
 “ of the Mouth and Nostrils of the Corpse,
 “ in great abundance ; at which Sight *Ri-*
 “ *chard*, though naturally hard-hearted, was
 “ so moved, that he burst out into Tears,
 “ and openly accused himself of being the
 “ Occasion of his Father’s Death.”

We should not have made our Extracts
 from the History of this Reign so long, but
 that we think the melancholy Consequences
 of Divisions in the Families of Princes, are
 painted therein at once in Colours so lively,
 and so shocking, as must necessarily affect e-
 very thinking Person who has Divisions in
 his Family, especially with regard to Fathers
 and Sons. To take a short Review thereof,
 we see a Monarch, one of the greatest and
 ablest Princes of his Time, involved in per-
 petual Rebellions and Struggles with his un-
 dutiful Sons, who are continually fomenting
 fresh Conspiracies against him, endeavouring
 at nothing less than to dispossess him of all
 his Dominions. To this End, we see them
 stick at nothing ; not only stirring up his own
 Subjects against him, but entering into Leagues
 with the perpetual and sworn Enemies of the
 Kingdom : and yet, when we come to exa-
 mine what the Father has done to deserve this
 Usage, we find him, (baiting one Failing,
 from which few Princes are exempt) wholly unde-

undeserving thereof at their Hands ; for we find him one of the most tender and affectionate of Fathers, and the most generous and merciful of Monarchs. He was so indulgent, that he caused his eldest Son to be crown'd King, when not much above fifteen, and even carried the first Dish himself at the Coronation ; and he was so merciful, that he granted a general Pardon to all the Rebels, without Exception, when he had gained several considerable Advantages over them, though they attempted no less than to dethrone him. To this his extraordinary Fondness for his eldest Son, *Rapin*, in a great measure, ascribes his repeated Rebellions and Conspiracies ; and, it must be own'd, his having him crown'd during his own Life, prov'd a Step very fatal to his Repose, since the Son was ever after grasping at something more than an empty Title ; and the Father could not bear the Thoughts of resigning any Part of his Dominions till his own Decease. Neither had his second Son *Richard*, or his third *Geoffrey*, any Reason to complain of his Want of fatherly Affection ; and as to his youngest, *John*, he was his Favourite next to Prince *Henry*, (probably because he knew not that he had enter'd into any Measures to give him Disturbance) and this made the News of his joining with his Brother *Richard* against him shock him so much, that he could never get over it, but curst them on his Death-bed, and could not be prevailed on to revoke it.

Upon the whole then, unless we look upon *Henry's* four Sons, *Henry, Richard, Geoffrey,* and *John*, to have been utterly void of all Conscience, Honour, and natural Affection, we must ascribe to some other Cause than their Father's Usage to their Mother, their perpetual Rebellions and Conspiracies against so good a Father and Sovereign : and this we take to have been the evil Counsellors with which they were continually surrounded, of which *Richard* seems to have been conscious, when, upon his Accession to the Throne, instead of rewarding several of them as they expected, he commanded them never more to appear in his Presence. Let us then examine next what were the Fruits of their evil Counsels. Not to mention the Seas of Blood that were shed on both Sides, and the continual Oppressions the People in general labour'd under during the civil Wars, according to that old and true Saying of the *Latin Poet*, *Quicquid delirant Reges, plectuntur Achiv.* Not to mention these, we say, what were the Consequences thereof to the young King, *Henry's* eldest Son, but most fatal? After having been involved for many Years in Troubles, he ended his Days in the most bitter Remorse and Anguish, for his unnatural Treatment of his Father. How did *Geoffrey's* Rebellion thrive with him? Why he met with an untimely End at a Tournament. How did *Richard* prosper, after his obtaining the Crown, for which he had so long languished, and engaged in such repeated Plots? After
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a turbulent Reign, of almost ten Years, fifteen Months of which he languished under a severe Confinement, he was at last killed before a paltry Castle, to which his Avarice had induced him to lay Siege. And as to *John*, his whole seventeen Years Reign was one continual Scene of Troubles, wherein he not only lost great Part of his Territories, and his Honour entirely, but, if some Historians are to be credited, his Life also, being poisoned by a Monk in *Swineshead-Abbey*. So fatally did their dying Father's Curse follow and stick to these two unnatural and unfortunate Princes. Lastly, as to King *Henry* himself, after a long Reign, during the latter Part of which he sufficiently experienced the Alternatives of good and bad Fortune, and had perpetual Contentions with those who ought to have been his strongest Support, he was overpower'd by a Combination of his only two remaining Sons, forc'd to conclude a Peace upon dishonourable Terms, and dy'd of a broken Heart, cursing those two rebellious Children, who by their Disobedience had reduced him to such Misfortunes.

We come next to the Reign of *Richard I.* wherein we may see, not only that all *Richard's* Complaints were so many Pretences to colour his taking up Arms against his Father; but that *John*, who had united with him to dethrone so good a Parent, was also ever ready to combine against his Brother, though a very kind one; thereby proving, that he who is false to one Prince, will seldom prove faithful to another.

It

It is highly probable, that had not *Richard* engaged at the Beginning of his Reign in his Expedition for the Recovery of the *Holy Land*, *John*, who well knew the Impetuosity and Fierceness of his Temper, would never have dar'd to enter into any Measures that would have given him Disturbance. But his Absence there, and his long Imprisonment afterwards in *Germany*, furnished *John* with such a tempting and advantageous Opportunity, that it was next to impossible for a Person of so ambitious, and so little scrupulous a Temper as that Prince, not to lay hold of it. Nevertheless *Richard*, before his Departure, to prevent, as much as in him lay, his Brother *John*, with whose Ambition he was not unacquainted, from taking Advantage of his Absence, and to oblige him to Fidelity by Benefits, if he had any Gratitude in him, invested him with no less than six Earldoms, *viz. Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset, Nottingham, Derby, and Lancaster*; besides which, he gave him in Marriage *Avisa*, the rich Heiress of the House of *Gloucester*. One would have thought, so many Favours would have been a sufficient Tie upon him, to have prevented his attempting any thing to the Prejudice of so kind a Brother, during his Absence; but alas! no Ties are strong enough to hold against an insatiable Ambition.

Richard, who, as we have before observ'd, was to Stranger to *John's* Desire of Rule, though he had in a manner shar'd his Kingdom with his Brother, would not suffer him
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to interfere, in the least, in the Government, during his Absence, lest he should render him too powerful to be controul'd ; wherefore he committed the Regency to his Favourite *Longchamp*, in Conjunction with the Bishop of *Durham*. *Longchamp* was, at the same time, Bishop of *Ely*, Lord High Chancellor, and the Pope's Legate over all *England* ; all which Dignities, together with the Regency, render'd him the most powerful Subject that had ever been in the Kingdom ; and consequently he was a very proper Check upon *John*, whose restless and ambitious Temper made him very uneasy, at being excluded from having any Share in the Administration : accordingly, we shall soon see this Prince render all his Brother's prudent Precautions ineffectual.

Richard had no sooner cross'd the Seas, but the two Regents disagreed, and at last came to an open Rupture. Herein *Longchamp* had a vast Advantage over his Colleague, both by reason of the high Posts he enjoy'd, and his Abilities. This gave him a great Superiority over the Bishop of *Durham*, which he very well knew how to improve. By pretending their Dissensions were very prejudicial to the King's Affairs, he found means to exclude him by degrees from the Administration, and to assume the whole Power to himself. Hereupon the dispossessed Bishop sent his Complaints to the King, who receiving them at *Marseilles*, sent him his Letters Patent, appointing him Justiciary from

from the *Humber*, to the Confines of *Scotland*. These Letters being arriv'd, the Bishop was so imprudent as to give them into the Hands of *Longchamp*, who, under the Colour of examining them, would not restore them, and thereby render'd them of no effect. Not content with this imperious Act, he added thereto a no less bold Enterprize; he order'd the Bishop to be apprehended, and detain'd him in Prison till he had deliver'd up certain Castles, which made him too powerful in the *North*.

Richard had likewise appointed six Lords as Counsellors to the Regents; but *Longchamp*, who was not willing to be advised by any Person whatever, never communicated any Affair to these Lords; on the contrary, he affected to treat them with extreme Contempt. These arbitrary Proceedings at last obliged the Bishop of *Durham*, and the six Counsellors, to prefer their Complaints to Prince *John*, who readily promised them his Protection, being overjoy'd their Dissensions afforded him so fine an Opportunity of intermeddling in the Administration, from which he imagin'd himself unjustly debar'd. From this Time, fomenting the Misunderstanding between most of the great Men and the Regent, he managed Matters so dexterously, that each of them promis'd to second him, and *Longchamp's* Downfall was resolv'd. Nothing was wanting but a Pretence, which offer'd soon after.

Some Time before *Richard's* Departure for
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the *Holy Land*, his Bastard Brother *Geoffrey* was elected Archbishop of *York*. However, it happen'd this Election was so displeasing to the King, that he was once going to order him into Custody ; but upon that Prelate's protesting he did not intend to insist upon his Election, the King pardoned him, upon Condition that he would never apply to the Pope for Confirmation. Besides this, he enjoined him, upon Pain of his Displeasure, to stay in *Normandy*, till the Expedition to the *Holy Land* was over. After the King was gone, however, *Geoffrey*, contrary to his Promise, demanded, and obtained the Pope's Bull, to confirm his Election; which done, without vouchsafing to give the Regent Notice, he set out for *England*, to take Possession of his Dignity. *Longchamp*, being apprized of what had passed, sent Orders to *Dover* to apprehend him; accordingly, upon his Arrival, the Archbishop had but just Time to get into a Church, where he imagined himself safe from all Insults. This Precaution did not prevent the Execution of the Regent's Orders; *Geoffrey* was forced from the Altar, and imprison'd in *Dover* Castle.

From this Outrage, Prince *John* took Occasion to act openly against *Longchamp*; as he found himself supported by all the Lords, he sent him positive Orders to release the Archbishop: But *Longchamps*, not being disposed to obey such a positive Command, from a Prince who had no Right to controul him, refused to comply, which was directly what

John wanted. Not many Days after, the Regent was summoned to appear, before an Assembly of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, convened at *London*, in *St. Paul's Church*. The Combination was so strong, that *Longchamp* saw himself, on a sudden, forsaken by all the World; and constrain'd to appear before an Assembly, which was bent upon his Ruin. He was charged with exceeding his Commission in divers Particulars, for which he was turned out of the Regency, and deprived of the Custody of the Tower of *London*, and of *Windſor* Castle.

Not content with this Severity, his Enemies compelled him, by Threats, to lay down his Legate's Cross in the Cathedral Church of *Canterbury*, which done, he was thrown into Prison. Within a few Days, he found Means to escape, but had the Misfortune to be retaken, by the Sea-side, disguised in a Woman's Habit, and was carried to *Dover* Castle, with a great Mob at his Heels; however, Prince *John* dreading the Pope's Resentment, if he kept his Legate in Prison, ordered him to be set at Liberty, with Permission to retire into *Normandy*. As soon as *Longchamp* found himself safe, he wrote to the Pope, and the King, to acquaint them how ill he had been treated. His Letter to the King, was long before it reached him; but that to his Holiness came to Hand much sooner; and he was so highly incensed, at the Affront done to Himself, in the Person of his Legate, that without staying to hear what Prince *John* could alledge in Justification of his Conduct, he

he sent exprefs Orders to the Bifhops to excommunicate him. Hereupon *John*, terrified at the Pope's Menaces, would have reftored *Longchamp*; but the Bifhops themfelves, dreading to be again under that imperious Prelate, oppofed it; fo the Orders of his Holinefs remained of no Effect, and *Lonchamp* durft not return to *England*.

The depofing of the Regent, having given the Prince an Opportunity of acquiring a greater Share in the Government, than the King had defired, he made ufe thereof to pave his Way to the Crown; regardless of all his Obligations to fo kind and generous a Brother. At leaft, if he had not then Thoughts of taking Advantage of the King's Abfence, to afcend the Throne during his Life, it is certain his Aim was to fecure it, in Cafe his Brother fhould die during his Expedition. He was very fenfible, there was another Prince, who had a better Title than himfelf, namely, *Arthur Duke of Bretagne*, his Nephew, Son to his eldeft Brother *Geoffery*. This put him upon taking fuch Meafures beforehand, as fhould free him the Competition of that Rival. In order thereunto, his fole Care was to render himfelf popular, and to gain the Affection of the *Englifh*, efpecially the *Londoners*, whose Rights and Privileges he caufed to be confirmed in a general Affembly. This won him the Hearts of the Citizens to fuch a Degree, that when they fware Fealty to the King, they voluntarily made a folemn Promise, to receive *John* for their Sovereign,

in Case the King should die without Issue. In this Manner did the Prince gain Ground by Degrees, and endeavour by underhand Practices, to secure a Party capable of supporting him against his Nephew; and which also he would have used afterwards, in much blacker Designs against the King his Brother.

Whilst Things were in this Station, News came to *England*, that *Richard*, after all his glorious Exploits in the *Holy Land*, had been basely seized, on his return Home through *Germany*, and was close confined by the Emperor *Henry VI*. This caused a general Consternation throughout the whole Kingdom, in all but *John*, to whom the News was very agreeable; however, Queen *Eleanor* his Mother, immediately took all possible Care, to prevent this Accident's causing any fatal Revolution. In order hereunto, she represented to the principal Barons, that they could no Ways give the King more effectual Proofs of their Fidelity, than by opposing to the utmost of their Power, the Attempts of Prince *John*, whose Designs were no longer a Secret: That this was the first Thing which must be necessarily taken Care of, after which they might provide against other Accidents. The Queen's Exhortations, the unhappy Condition of their Monarch, and the Fame he had justly acquired in the *East*, all concurred to keep the *English* Barons, in the Fidelity due to their Soverign. Wherefore, as they did not question, but *John* would lay hold of this Juncture, to disturb the State, they entered into an Association

ciation to exclude him from the Government, at the very Time he was taking Measures to seize it. The Opportunity seeming to him very favourable, he had formed a Design, of taking the Administration of Affairs into his own Hands, that he might the more easily wrest the Crown from the King his Brother; but he was prevented therein, by the Diligence of the Queen, his Mother, and the Barons. He had the Mortification to see other Regents appointed during *Richard's* Imprisonment; nevertheless, he did not fail using his utmost Endeavours, to break an Association so prejudicial to him. In order to this, he affirmed, his sole Aim was to secure himself against the Pretensions of his Nephew, in Case the King should die in Prison; but he did not gain Belief, because all his Proceedings plainly shewed, his Intent was rather to obstruct his Return, should he so fortunate as to obtain his Liberty. In Effect, he left no Stone unturned to become Master of the fortified Towns, or gain over the Governors to his Interest; and at such a Juncture, it is no great Wonder that he prevailed on some; however, he met with so much Opposition, from the Generality, that he found there was no Possibility of succeeding, without the Assistance of the King of *France*.

In order to obtain this, he went over to *Philip*, whom he engaged firmly in his Interest, upon certain Conditions, which done, he used his utmost Endeavours, to gain the King of *Scotland*, but did not succeed therein. He then

then bethought himself of another Expedient for compassing his Ends ; which was, to cause it to rumoured that his Brother was dead in Prison, upon which he demanded the Crown : But as there was not any other Advice of the King's Death, he did not find the *English* so rash as to take this Step, without further Confirmation. However, their Refusal afforded him a Pretence to seize on some Places of Strength, as being willing to take by Force, what he could not obtain by fair Means : But his Party was so inconsiderable, that it was impossible for him to make any great Progress.

Things remained in this Situation, till at last, the King's Release was agreed on ; for an exorbitant Ransom of an hundred and fifty thousand Marks, besides other unreasonable Articles, which the Emperor basely extorted, and to which *Richard* agreed ; having been informed of the ill Designs of his Brother and the King of *France*. These two Princes having Notice, that the King was likely to be enlarged, tried all manner of Ways to break the Agreement with the Emperor ; *Philip* in particular, as soon as he heard thereof, sent *John* Word, *to look to himself, for the Devil was likely to get loose*. This News threw *John* into a great Consternation, he saw all his Hopes vanish, and himself upon the Point of falling into the Hands of a Brother justly incensed, without knowing how, by any Means, to ward off the terrible Stroke. In this Perplexity, he had no other Remedy, than uniting more strictly with *Philip*, and endeavouring

endeavouring, with his Assistance, to break *Richard's* Measures for his Deliverance: Wherefore, as these two Princes had one common Interest, they agreed to act in Concert, to induce the Emperor, by the most advantageous Offers, to detain the King in Prison.

With this View, the Bishop of *Beauvais*, who had once before been sent on an Errand of the same Nature, was again commissioned to make *Henry* the following Proposals: That, provided he would promise to detain *Richard* till *Michaelmas*, *Philip* would pay him down fifty thousand Marks, and *John* thirty thousand: That, after that Term, they would return him monthly one thousand Pounds Sterling, as long as the King should be kept Prisoner: That, in Case he would deliver him up into their Hands, they would pay him the whole Ransom of an hundred and fifty thousand Marks: If he refused all these, the Embassador was to tender him the same Sum to keep him Prisoner one Year.

Could any Thing be more mean, base, and cruel, than the joint Endeavours of these two Princes, to detain in an unjust, and rigorous Confinement, a brave and unfortunate Monarch, whom neither of them durst have faced in Battle? In *Philip* it was mean, base, cruel, and ungenerous; in *John*, it was not only all these, but also ungrateful and unnatural in the highest Degree; it plainly shewed, that had he been in their Power, as he was in the Enemies, they would have used him as bad or worse than *Henry* did. As it was, these their
Offers

Offers had such an Effect upon that fordid Prince, that he deferred the King's Deliverance till the next Diet, which was to meet at *Spires*, in a few Months, though Queen *Eleanor* was come to *Worms* with a hundred thousand Marks, and Hostages for the Payment of the Rest. One may reasonably imagine *Richard's* Consternation, when he heard this unwelcome News ! He was no Stranger to his Brother's Endeavours to seize upon his Crown ; and was satisfied *Philip* would employ all his Forces to support him in his unjust Designs. On the other Hand, he too well knew the Emperor's Temper, to hope to move a Heart, that was a Stranger to all generous Sentiments. In this melancholy State, believing himself intirely ruined, never did any Time seem more grievous or tedious than the Hours he passed till the Meeting of the Diet. He was not so much alarmed without just Cause ; for the Emperor had actually determined to comply with the King of *France*, and sacrifice his Honour to fordid Interest.

Accordingly when the Diet assembled at *Spires* in *February*, the Emperor addressed himself to the *German* Princes in such Terms, as plainly shewed he made no Account of the Agreement made with the King of *England*. Surprized at this Proceeding, they could not forbear telling him their Thoughts, representing to him strongly, that being themselves Guarantees of the Treaty they could not in Honour see it violated, and even intimating that he should not break it with Impunity.

punity. A Behaviour that will be a lasting Honour to that Assembly. Whether *Henry* stood in Fear of their Threats, or whether Shame began at last to make some Impression on his Mind, he was prevailed with to set his Prisoner at Liberty, upon receiving the hundred thousand Marks, and Hostages for the other fifty thousand: And *Richard* was no sooner free, but he left *Germany* with all Speed, and hastened to the *Low Countries*, not stopping any longer by the Way, than was absolutely necessary. Nor was this Expedition any more than requisite, for *Henry*, repenting of his Release, sent after him, to seize him again, but it proved too late. As soon as he got to *Antwerp*, he embarked for *England*, and arrived safe at *Sandwich*, on the 20th of *March* 1194, after four Years Absence, fifteen Months of which he had languished under a severe Confinement, where he was used after a very rigorous Manner, even to be loaded with Irons.

The King was received by his Subjects with such Demonstrations of Joy and Affection, as soon made him forget all the Disgraces he had suffered during his Captivity. His Brother, however was not one of the first to welcome him Home, for he thought fit to retire to *France*. Hereupon *Richard* ordered him to be summoned to appear, within forty Days, to answer what Accusations should be exhibited against him; and *John* not complying, within the Time limited, the King ordered Sentence to be passed against him, confiscating all his
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Lands, and declaring him incapable of succeeding to the Crown.

Fortunately for *John*, he had a powerful Intercessor ; for *Richard*, being at *Roan*, the Queen his Mother prevailed on him to admit him to his presence, and promise him a civil Reception, upon which she introduced that Prince before him. *John* threw himself at the King's Feet, and begged his pardon : upon which *Richard*, as he had given his Word, received him civilly, and raised him : he intimated to him, however, that he was by no Means satisfied of the Sincerity of his Repentance, for he told him, *I forgive you, and wish I could as easily forget your Offences, as you will my Pardon.* For any Thing that appeared to the contrary, however, the King was mistaken herein ; for whether it proceeded from his Fear, that *Richard* would not be so easily appeased a second Time, or from his Remorse, for having so highly injured so kind a Brother, or from a Sense of Gratitude and Honour, or from *Richard's* keeping too strict an Eye over him, or from his not living long enough to afford him a favourable Opportunity, we don't find *John* concerned afterwards in any sinister practices against that Prince : Accordingly he reaped the Benefit thereof, since *Richard* generously left him all his Dominions ; to the prejudice of his Nephew *Arthur*, who had a better Title ; as being Son to *John's* eldest Brother *Geoffery*.

Now though the Quarrel between *Richard*, and his Brother *John* was not the Occasion

caſion of much Blood ſhed ; which was wholly owing to the Loyalty of the Barons, and of all his Subjects in general to *Richard*, which was ſo great that they were neither to be corrupted, nor ſeduced from their Obedience ; as alſo to *Richard's* uncommon Generoſity, in pardoning his ungrateful Brother, and reſtoring him to Favour ; let us but conſider what would have been the Conſequence, had this happened under the Reign of a Prince leſs beloved. It is evident, *John* would not have boggled at any Thing, in order to have obtained his Ends. It is certain he conſented to very diſadvantageous Terms, to engage *Philip* ſo firmly in his Alliance, and had he ſucceeded with any of the principal Barons, what a bloody, civil War muſt have been kindled ? And how muſt the poor People have ſuffered ? It cannot be denied that *John* had great Failings ; nay it muſt be owned he was one of the weakeſt and worſt Princes that is to be met with in the *Engliſh* Hiſtory ; and yet we can ſcarce believe, he would have perſiſted ſo long in a continual Courſe of Treachery, Ingratitude, and Rebellion, againſt one of the tendereſt of Fathers, and one of the kindeſt of Brothers, had he not been buoy'd up therein, by ſome evil Counſellors about him, who hoped to find their own Account, in fiſhing in troubled Waters.

We ſhould not have dwelt ſo long upon this Reign, which, no doubt, ſome unthinking People may imagine foreign to our Pur-

pose, but that, in our Opinion, whatever Troubles happened therein, through the Rupture between the two Brothers, are the natural Consequences, of the fatal Divisions in the Royal Family in the preceding Reign; which we believed ought to be set in the strongest Light. But this is not all, we think few Reigns furnish us with more instructive Lessons. *First*, We may learn from hence the pernicious Consequences of giving ill Examples, and not doing as we would be done by. *Richard I.* rebelled against a good Father, without any Manner of Reason; (for it is evident, his complaining of his Father for detaining this Princess *Alice*, who had been designed for him; and his affected Jealousy of his Brother *John*, were all mere Pretences to colour his Rebellion; and he was served in the same Kind, by Prince *John*, without the least Cause given, to whom he had been a very kind and generous Brother. *Secondly*, We may from thence observe the admirable Dispensations of Providence; and the exact Justice of the *Almighty*, who seldom fails of measuring out to Men the very same Measure, which they have measured to others. *Thirdly*, We may observe from hence, that whatever designing Men may sometimes pretend, the *English* (that is, the Bulk of the People) are naturally loyal and well affected to their Sovereigns; and that they never complain without having very just and very great Reason; nay, which may seem a Sort of a Paradox, that even Oppression alone will not
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make them disaffected; and that it must require some more than ordinary Mismanagement (to call it no worse) to bring the People in general to be disgusted with their Prince; they must feel very sensibly before they begin to murmur; and the whole Body of them is never discontented, till they find the Honour of their Country lost, as well as her Treasure dissipated. This Reign is an undeniable Instance of this Truth; hardly ever did they groan under heavier Oppressions; yet did they never give more convincing Proofs of their Affection and Loyalty to their Sovereign; the Reason was, by his glorious Actions in the *Holy Land*, he had made the Nation honoured and respected throughout the Universe. *Rapin* assigns this very Reason, for the People's acquiescing patiently under their heavy Burthens. "It may be said that *England*,
 " (says this Author) where he never was
 " above eight Months, during the whole
 " Course of his Reign, which lasted near ten
 " Years, was very unhappy under his Government. He loaded his Subjects with
 " frequent Impositions and excessive Taxes.
 " And yet no other Benefit accrued to the
 " People, for these prodigious Sums, but a
 " little Glory for their King; with which,
 " however, they were satisfied, as redounding to the Honour of the Nation."

After *Richard's* Decease, his Brother *John*, to whom he bequeathed his Dominion, ascended the Throne he had so long and so eagerly coveted; and all he got thereby, was, to
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shew all the World, he was as unworthy of the Crown, as he had been desirous of obtaining it, in short, that he neither knew how to rule, or to obey. His whole Reign, which lasted above seventeen Years, was one uninterrupted Scene of Misfortunes and Dishonour; however, as he had no Family Disputes, but with his Nephew *Arthur*, at the Beginning of his Reign, to whom, in Justice, the Crown belonged; and as he found the Means to put a speedy End to this Rupture, by getting the poor young Prince removed out of the Way, though Historians are not agreed in what Manner, we shall say no more of him: but that he died miserably, and left his Son a Kingdom wretchedly divided: His Death, however, was providential for *Henry*, who would otherwise infallibly have been dispossessed of all his Father's Dominions.

We shall say as little of the Son's Reign of this Prince, which was likewise pretty turbulent; but as the Troubles which distracted it, did not any ways proceed from Family Disputes, we shall pass them over in Silence, as altogether foreign to our Purpose; as we shall also his brave Son *Edward I's*. glorious Reign, for the same Reason, and go on to that of his Successor, that unfortunate and ill advised Prince, *Edward II.* where we shall meet with but too fatal an Instance of the terrible Consequences of Family Divisions amongst Princes.

Never did Monarch ascend the Throne
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with more Advantages than this unhappy Prince. There were no longer any Factions in the Kingdom; Discord was banished, and a good Harmony was happily established between the Sovereign and his People. Accordingly he was received with a general Joy, and the greatest Applause; insomuch that the extraordinary Satisfaction expressed by the Nation on this Occasion, was in some Measure injurious to the Glory of the deceased King, who had retrieved the Honour of the Nation, lost in the Reigns of *John* and *Henry III.* by his gallant Actions and wise Administration.

His first Step, however, within a few Days of his Father's Death, blasted all the agreeable Hopes, with which the *English* had flattered themselves, that his Reign would prove happy and glorious, and turned their Joy into Mourning. He had not yet performed the last Offices to the great Prince, to whom he owed his Birth, when regardless of his Oath to his dying Parent, never to recall *Gaveston*, who had been banished, in the late Reign, as the Corrupter of his Youth, he sent to that Favourite to return. The only Thing wherein he thought fit to comply with the Injunctions of his deceased Father, was in consummating as soon as possible his Marriage with *Isabella* of *France*, Daughter to *Philip the Fair*. Before *Gaveston* returned, the King, to give a signal Instance of his Favour, made him in an Instant the richest Man in the Kingdom; by creating him Earl of *Cornwall*, and giving him

him the Lands, that had fallen to the Crown, by the Death of the late Earl, Son of *Richard*, King of the *Romans*; and immediately after his Return he presented him with the *Isle of Man*. But this was not the only or chief Cause of the Discontent of the *English* Lords; they could not, without the utmost Vexation, see such a profligate as *Gaveston*, dispose at Pleasure of all the Offices of the Kingdom, and become absolute Master of the Administration of Affairs, which *Edward* left entirely to his Management. On the other Hand, *Gaveston*, for his Part, instead of endeavouring to gain the *English* Lords, by an affable Carriage, and consulting them in all his Measures, affected to govern with an Arbitrary Power, without vouchsafing to ask any Man's Advice; and even went so far as to insult several of the most powerful Barons, by giving them Nicknames. However, had he gone no farther. Things might not have proceeded to the Extremities they did afterwards; but he carried his Insolence to that Height, as even to insult the Queen; who not being able to obtain any Satisfaction from her Husband, complained bitterly thereof to the King her Father. In her Complaint, she set forth, that *Gaveston* was the sole Cause of all her Misfortunes; and that the King her Spouse's Fondness for that unworthy Favourite, went so far, that it alienated his Affections entirely from her, and rendered him an utter Stranger to her Bed: This Complaint occasioned a Suspicion, that the

the uncommon Fondness of the King for *Gaveston*, was grounded on a Commerce of a very criminal Nature.

However that be, this was the first Occasion of the Rupture, between the Queen and her Royal Consort, which was afterwards productive of such terrible Consequences; though that was not 'till many Years after *Gaveston's* being put to Death. It was to have been hoped, that on *Gaveston's* being removed, a firm Reconciliation might have been brought about between the King and his Barons; but the King was so intent upon Revenge, that he sought all possible Means to gratify it; and being chiefly exasperated against the Earl of *Lancaster*, whom he looked upon as the sole Author of his Disgraces, and his most dangerous Enemy, not being able to get him into his Power, he created him a Trouble, against which it was impossible for the Earl to have been upon his Guard.

Whilst he kept at a Distance from Court, a certain Knight, called Sir *Richard St. Martin*, a Man of a mean Look, and dwarfish Stature, presented to the Judges a Petition, claiming the Wife of the Earl of *Lancaster*, Heiress of the Families of *Lincoln* and *Salisbury*. He set forth in his Petition, that he had carnally known her, and that she had made him a Promise of Marriage before she was contracted to the Earl. The Countess, being dissatisfied with her Husband, to her eternal Shame, confess'd the Fact; upon which she was adjudged, with all her Estate,

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to the unworthy Claimant. This Affair, which required a long Examination, was so quickly decided, that it was easy to see the Judges were gained beforehand, and the King himself had been a Promoter of the Process. An Injury of this Nature, done to a Prince of the Blood Royal, and greatly beloved by the People, raised an extreme Indignation against *Edward*; insomuch that nothing was heard every where but Murmurings against his Government. What made it worse, was, that he had then no Favourite to bear the Blame; so that it was laid upon himself, and it was said publicly, that the Throne of *England* had never before been filled by a Prince, so unworthy to rule a free Nation.

It may easily be imagined, that after such an unpardonable Affront, there was no Room to hope the Earl would ever forgive the King; and consequently, that it was to be expected he would take all Occasions to create him Disturbance; and *Edward's* Mismanagement afforded him but too many. *Hugh Spencer*, a young Gentleman, whom the Lords themselves had placed about the King, as a Spy, to inform them of what passed at Court, as believing him entirely devoted to their Interests, was soon made sensible by his Father, that he might make his Fortune much more easily by acting in a contrary Manner, and ingratiating himself with his Master. Upon this Advice, young *Spencer*, who 'till then had been faithful to the Barons, altered his Conduct entirely, and in Time gained almost

as great an ascendant over him as *Gaveston*, and made as ill Use of it. This caused as general a Discontent as before, which in the End proved Fatal both to Father and Son; but which in all probability, would not have proved so destructive to the two Favourites, had they not been so imprudent, to tread exactly in *Gaveston's* Steps, by making the Queen herself their Enemy. They had before incensed the whole Kingdom in general, by their revengeful Temper, and shedding more noble Blood upon Scaffolds, than had ever been spilt before since the *Norman* Conquest.

As the *Spencers* took all Opportunities to mortify Queen *Isabella*, insomuch that, by their Persecutions, they obliged her to complain to her Brother, the King of *France*, that she was looked upon but as a Servant in the King, her Husband's Court, that incens'd Princess resolved upon being signally reveng'd, both upon the *Spencer's* themselves, and the King himself, their Protector. In order to effect this, she artfully caused it to be suggested to *Edward*, that if he would send her to *Paris*, she might by her Interest with her Brother, prevent a War, which was on the Point of breaking out between the two Crowns. Having gained this Point, she still wanted to draw the Prince her Son, then but thirteen Years old, thither also; wherefore, as King *Edward*, by a Treaty the Queen had concluded with the King her Brother, was to meet him at *Beauvais*, and do Homage to him for *Guienne*, and as she knew her Husband

was very averſe thereunto, ſhe cauſed it to be inſinuated to him, that if he would reſign *Guienne*, and the Earldom of *Ponthieu*, to his Son, the King of *France* would accept the Homage of the young Prince, in his ſtead, and reſtore the Places he had promiſed to give up by the Treaty. Having gained this Point alſo, and got the Prince in her Power, ſhe reſolved to make her Inſtrument to ruin the King her Husband, as being the only Support of the two *Spencers*, her ſworn Enemies.

When the Prince was arrived at *Paris*, all the *Engliſh*, who had fled for Refuge into *France*, or been baniſhed their own Country, flock'd thither to her, as ſhe had foreſeen, and expected. *Roger Mortimer*, of whom we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak hereafter, was of this Number, and became her chief Counſellor. From that Time, *Edward's* Embaſſadors at the Court of *France* had but little Access to the Queen, and were no longer adviſed with; on the contrary, ſhe held frequent Councils, where none were admitted but the profeſſed Enemies of the King her Husband, and the two *Spencer's*. Her Brother, *Charles the Fair*, had promiſed the Queen his Siſter ſome Aſſiſtance, but was unwilling it ſhould appear he was concerned in her Plots: it was neceſſary therefore for *Iſabella* to find a Protector, who would not ſcruple openly to ſupport her Interests. To this End, ſhe applied to the Earl of *Hainault*, from whom ſhe believed ſhe ſhould be able to procure ſome Troops, in order to ſtrengthen

en her Party, upon her Arrival in *England* : and as he could not expect to gain that Prince, unless she made it turn to his Advantage, she concluded with him a Marriage between her Son *Edward* and his Daughter *Philippa* ; as if the Disposal of the young Prince had been in her Power ; and notwithstanding the King his Father had sent him express Orders, not to enter into any Marriage Engagement without his knowledge.

Not long after, she set out from *France*, and went to *Valenciennes*, where she ratify'd the Treaty concluded between her and the Earl of *Hainault*, and contracted her Son *Edward* to the Princess *Philippa*. This done, and every thing being now in readiness, she went on to *Dort*, where she embarked with the Troops lent by the Earl of *Hainault*, amounting to about three thousand, under the Command of *John de Hainault*, the Earl's Brother, whom the Queen, as a singular Favour, gave leave to style himself her Knight. The Queen, however, did not rely so much upon this small Body of Forces, as upon the general Discontent of the *English*, and the many Adherents procured her by her Friends in that Kingdom.

On the twenty-second of *September* she landed at *Orewell* in *Suffolk*, where she was joined by *Henry of Lancaster*, and divers other Lords. At the same Time, the Enemies of the *Spencer's* were very busy in levying Troops to come to her Assistance ; and her Army became soon so numerous, that they
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struck a Terror into all who were desirous of serving the King. That unfortunate Prince had received timely Notice, that a Plot was hatching against him at *Paris*; but, instead of applying effectual Remedies, he had only written to the Pope and King of *France*, which was of no Service to him. Wherefore, upon the landing of the foreign Troops, he was deserted by all, and entirely unable to make any Opposition. In vain did he publish a Proclamation, commanding all his Subjects to fall upon the Foreigners, and set a Price upon *Mortimer's* Head; not a Man stirred to obey him: even the Earl of *Kent*, his own Brother, sided with the Malecontents, and went over to the Queen. In this Extremity, therefore, he resolved to retire into the *West*, with the two *Spencer's*, the Earl of *Arundel*, Chancellor *Baldoc*, *Simon de Reading*, and a few other Adherents of Favourites.

In the mean time the Queen, whose Army increased daily, published a Manifesto in the Name of her Son, *Edmund* Earl of *Kent*, the King's Uncle, and herself, setting forth the Reasons why they took up Arms. They gave out therein, that their sole Aim was to free the Church and State from the Oppressions to which they were liable by the Male-Administration of the King, and the Tyranny of the *Spencers*. They added, That these unworthy Favourites, and their Adherents, ought to be deemed Enemies to the State, since by their pernicious Counsel, and their Abuse of the Royal Authority, they had unjustly

justly deprived, some of their Lives, and others of their Estates and Liberty, without any Regard to the Laws of the Land, or the Privileges of the People.

Edward was then little able to withstand his Enemies ; all his Endeavours to raise Troops had proved ineffectual : no one would expose himself to the Queen's Resentment, or hazard his Life and Fortune for an unhappy Prince, who was now looked upon as lost. In this Extremity, finding no Remedy in *England*, he resolv'd to retire into *Ireland*, and leave *Spencer* the Father in *Bristol*, the Siege of which, he imagined, would employ the Queen so long, till he should have Time to concert proper Measures. Pursuant to this Resolution, he went on Board a small Vessel, and set sail for *Ireland* ; but he was driven by contrary Winds on the Coast of *Wales*, where he was forced to land, and lie conceal'd in the Abbey of *Neath*, in Expectation of the Wind's becoming fair, or in order to form some other Design. In the meanwhile, the Queen came before *Bristol*, which surrender'd in a few Days ; upon which *Spencer* the Father, then ninety Years old, was immediately hang'd up in his Armour, without any manner of Formality.

Not long after, the King was discover'd in his Retirement, and taken Prisoner, with *Spencer* the younger, Chancellor *Baldoc*, *Simon de Reading*, and a few Domesticks, all the rest forsaking him in his Misfortunes. This was no sooner known, than it was resolved

solved in Council to send to him the Bishop of *Hereford* to demand of him the Queen's Great Seal, which was depriving him, at the same Time, of the Exercise of the Royal Authority. He deliver'd it, however, without shewing any Reluctance, and gave the Queen, and the Prince his Son, Power to use it as they pleas'd ; which was the last Act of Authority performed by this Prince, who soon after was conducted to *Kendworth* Castle.

Having got the Great Seal, the Queen call'd a Parliament in the Captive King's Name ; but she had not the Patience to wait till the meeting of the Parliament, before she was revenged upon *Spencer*, and the rest of her Enemies. The Earl of *Arundel* first lost his Head, by her Orders, at *Hereford* ; soon after which she marched to that City herself, whither she order'd the Prisoners to be conducted in a most ignominious Manner, that they might be exposed, all the Way, to the Insults and Curses of the People. As soon as she was arrived there, she caused *Spencer*, and *Simon de Reading*, to be brought to their Tryals ; the first of which was hang'd on a Gibbet fifty Foot high, and the other on one ten Foot lower. A just Retribution for all the noble Blood which he and his Father, and their Adherents, had revengefully shed. As for Chancellor *Baldoc*, as he was in Holy Orders, and it would not have been safe to have proceeded against him in the same manner, he was deliver'd to the Bishop of *Hereford*, and carried to *London* ; but on his entering

tering the City, the Mob fell upon him, and abusing him terribly, threw him into *Newgate*, where he dy'd of the Blows he had receiv'd.

The Favourites and Ministers having thus receiv'd the just Reward of their Pride, Cruelty, and Oppression, the Queen went to *London*; where the Parliament meeting soon after, it was unanimously resolv'd, that the King should be deposed, and his Son *Edward* crown'd in his room. This Resolution was accordingly put in Execution soon after, notwithstanding that the generous Prince his Son solemnly vowed not to accept the Crown, during the King his Father's Life, without his express Consent. The Queen's Party easily found Means to get over this Difficulty, by terrifying that unhappy Prince into a seemingly voluntary Resignation of his Crown; which was follow'd not long after (as generally is the Case with imprison'd Monarchs) with his tragical and untimely End, after having undergone a thousand Indignities in his Confinement; being murder'd in a most barbarous manner, by thrusting a red-hot Iron up his Fundament, and burning his Bowels, so that he expir'd in the midst of unheard-of Tortures. Can there be a more melancholy or shocking Instance, of the fatal Effects of domestick Divisions in the Families of Princes, or of the pernicious Consequences of evil Counsellors and Favourites? Had that unfortunate Prince abandon'd the *Spencer's*, and given them up to Justice, he had never been deposed himself, nor died a violent Death :

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but, as he did not, he was a Sufferer himself, for not having the Resolution to punish his wicked Ministers ; whom, nevertheless, at last, it was not in his Power to protect, or screen them from the Revenge of an injur'd and oppress'd Nation.

Edward II. being removed, and *Edward III.* a Minor, the Queen found it no Difficulty to seize upon the Government, which she shared only with her own Creatures ; the chief of whom, *Roger Mortimer*, had as great an Ascendant over her, as *Spencer* the Son had over the late King ; and, without taking Warning by his Fate, used it as ill. This caus'd several of the Lords to be highly dissatisfy'd, amongst whom was *Henry of Lancaster*, and *Edmund* Earl of *Kent*, the King's Uncle ; the last of whom, who had join'd with the Queen against his Brother, in the late Reign, but paid dear for it in this, since he fell a Victim to the Jealousy and Cruelty of *Isabella*, and her Minion *Mortimer*, with whom she liv'd in such a scandalous Manner, as gave great Offence to the whole Nation. But neither the barbarous Queen, nor her inhuman Favourite, enjoy'd long the Fruits of their horrid Crimes with Impunity. For some honest Counsellors about the young King opening his Eyes, and making him see their infamous Commerce, and egregious Male-Administration, *Mortimer* was made to expiate the Murders of the King, and the Earl of *Kent*, on the common Gallows at *Tyburn*, and the Queen was forced

forced to atone for her's, by a Confinement of twenty eight Years, wherein she languished till she died. Thus the Divisions in the Family of *Edward II.* proved not only fatal to himself, and to all his Favourites and Ministers, but to his Cousin the Earl of *Lancaster*, his Brother the Earl of *Kent*, and even to the Queen herself, and her infamous Minion, not to mention the Seas of Blood that were shed on both Sides. A melancholy and remarkable Instance of the terrible Effects of either giving or taking bad Councils.

On the Discovery of the infamous Commerce, and male Practices of the Queen, his Mother, and her darling *Mortimer*, *Edward III.* took the Reins in his own Hands, and the Remainder of his Reign is one of the brightest Parts in the *English* History, till his old Age, when he began to doat on *Alice Peirce*, and fell into the Hands of selfish and wicked Ministers, by whom he suffered himself to be too much influenced, which was some Blemish to his Glory; but ought to be excused, on Account of his many excellent Qualities.

The Reign of *Richard II.* was far from being so glorious; that unfortunate Prince, who too much resembled his unhappy Grandfather, *Edward II.* both in his turbulent Reign, and his untimely and violent End, fell early into the Hands of evil Counsellors, which proved his Ruin. His Uncles, the Dukes of *Lancaster* and *Gloucester*, representing to him the ill Consequences of following the Advice of his self-interested Favourites, became the

perpetual Objects of his Jealousy and Fears, insomuch that he was continually contriving Ways to remove the one out of the Kingdom; and never thought himself secure, till he caused the other to be privately strangled, without accusing him of any Crime, or bringing him to any Tryal whatever.

It is not to be imagined but such cruel and arbitrary Proceedings must breed ill Blood, and cause Divisions in the Royal Family; and yet, as if this had not been sufficient, by an arbitrary Act of Power, he banished the Duke of *Hereford*, eldest Son to the Duke of *Launcester*, for ten Years, without his having been guilty of any the least Offence whatsoever; and by another as arbitrary Act, though before his Departure he had remitted four Years of his Exile, he made it perpetual, upon the Death of the Duke his Father; and not only so, but confiscated his whole Estate.

Notwithstanding these despotick Acts of Power, perhaps Things might not have come to the fatal Extremities they did afterwards, had not the King's prodigious Expences, and insatiate Avarice of his Ministers, induced them to oppress the whole Nation all Manner of Ways. No less than seventeen Counties were condemned at once, as guilty of Treason, and the Estates of all the Inhabitants adjudged to the King: Insomuch that the richer sort of Gentlemen, and Burgesses, in order to avoid the Seizure of their Estates, were forced to give blank Obligations, which the King caused to be filled, with whatever Sums he was pleased to exact. It was impossible that a Government so tyrannical, should not draw the Hatred of the Nation upon the Prince and his Instruments: Accordingly, it was evident, that these Oppressions kindled in the Hearts of the People, an ardent Desire of freeing themselves from them; insomuch that the least Spark was capable of causing a fatal Combustion.

Just as *Richard*, by his arbitrary Government, had thus entirely alienated the Hearts of the *English*, he received News of the *Irish* being revolted; upon which he imprudently resolved to go in Person and chastize them. Pursuant to this Resolution, he levied a numerous Army, which furnished him with a fresh Opportunity to exact great Sums from his Subjects, whereby he considerably increased the Hatred they already bore him. Accordingly, he was no sooner embarked for *Ireland*, before the Male-Contents in *England* projected the Means to de-
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throne him; and in order there unto, sent to *France* for the Duke of *Hereford* to be their Leader. The Duke very readily laid hold on this Opportunity, to procure Redress for all his Injuries, and be revenged on his Oppressor; and found the People disposed to assist him beyond his utmost Hopes. Though he landed in *Torkshire* with not above fourscore Men, where he was immediately joined by the Earl of *Northumberland*, and his Son *Henry Percy*, with a small Body of Forces, the concourse of People, flocking in Crowds to list under his Banners was so great, that in a few Days his Army was sixty thousand strong: So eager were the Nobles and People to put themselves under the Protection of a Prince, who stood himself in so great Need of their Assistance.

In vain the Regent tryed to prevent a general Revolt, the hourly News of the Increase of the Duke's Forces, and the Disposition of the Kingdom, soon made the Councillors, among whom were few Persons of Abilities, despair of being able to remedy the Evil. In this Perplexity they committed a capital Fault in quitting *London*, and retiring to *St. Alban's*; which they had no sooner done, than the Citizen's declared for the Duke, who on his Arrival in *England* had assumed the Title of Duke of *Lancaster*, published a Manifesto, setting forth, that he had taken up Arms to obtain a Satisfaction for all the Injustice done him; which produced so great an Effect, that when the Regent would have issued out a Commission to levy Troops, he could hardly find any willing to accept them, every one saying he did not care to oppose, the lawful Pretensions of a Prince so unjustly oppressed. This Refusal convincing the Earl of *Wiltshire*, and the rest of the Ministry, that instead of being able to maintain their Authority, they ran the Hazard of seeing themselves deserted, and sacrificed to the publick Hatred, they deserted the Duke of *Tork*, and retired to *Bristol* Castle. After their Flight, the Regent, perceiving there was no stemming the Torrent, threw up the Care of publick Affairs, and withdrew to his own House, leaving the Kingdom, like a Ship, exposed to the Winds and Waves, without Pilot or Mariners.

In the mean Time, the Duke advanced with Speed to *London*, where he was received with the utmost Demonstrations of Zeal and Affection; he stay'd however, no longer then was just necessary to secure them in his Interest, which done, he marched directly to *Bristol*, which opened

opened to him with Joy; but the Castle holding out, he ordered it to be assaulted, and in four Days the Besieged were forced to surrender at Discretion. Having now got the Earl of *Wiltshire*, and his Companions in his Power, he resolved to gratify the People, whose Rage against them was implacable, by sacrificing those odious Ministers, as pleasing Victims to their Vengeance; accordingly he caused them to be beheaded.

Richard in the mean while was in *Ireland*, in a perfect Security, the contrary Winds, which continued to blow above three Weeks, preventing his receiving any News. When first he heard it, however, he resolved to go immediately for *England*, and fight the Enemy; but was persuaded by the Duke of *Albemarle*, to stay till Ships could be got ready to transport all his Forces at once, which fatal Advice he took. He sent, however, the Earl of *Salisbury* before to levy Troops in *Wales*, assuring him he would quickly follow; and the Earl used such Expedition, that in a few Days, he got an Army of forty thousand Men, the *Welch* and *Cheshire* Men zealously taking Arms for the King. If *Richard* had arrived with his Forces, by the Time he had promised, he might at least, have had the Satisfaction, of trying the Fortune of a Battle in the Defence of his Crown. But the Wind returning to the *East* detained him eighteen Day longer in *Ireland*; during which Time, a Rumor being spread in the Earl of *Salisbury*'s Army, that the King was dead in that Kingdom, the Troops would have disbanded, and it was with great Difficulty the Earl prevailed with them to stay a few Days, till they had certain News of him: This being expired, and *Richard* not appearing, the *Welch* and *Cheshire* Men deserted and retired Home, insomuch that when *Richard* landed a few Days after, he knew not what Course to take.

In this Uncertainty, he withdrew to *Conway* Castle, where finding himself almost alone, he saw no other Remedy, but to throw himself upon the Generosity of his Enemy. He did so, and was by him conducted to *London*, and confined in the *Tower*; and a Parliament being called soon after, he was by them formally deposed as unworthy of the Crown, for his intolerable Cruelty and Oppression, And, as there is generally but a little Distance between the Prison of Princes, and their Graves, he was the next Year murdered in *Pomfret* Castle; thus resembling his Grandfather in his melancholy End, as he had
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in his unfortunate Reign, and being swayed by evil Counsellors and Favourites.

Thus fell *Richard II.* a Victim to Family Dissensions, and the evil Councils of his Ministry, who advised him to carry Things to such Extreams as rendered him intolerable to the Body of the Nation. The Reign of his Successor *Henry IV.* was little less turbulent; but as there were no Dissentions of any Consequence in the Royal Family, we shall pass it over in Silence; as we shall likewise the short, but glorious Reign of his Son *Henry V.* for the same Reason. But if there were no considerable Divisions in the Royal Family of *England*, during these two Reigns, it was not the same with *France*: The Spirit of Discord seemed to have left the *English* Court, only to take its Flight to that of *France*, which cost the Kingdom an *Ocean* of Blood, and was very near proving the utter Ruin of the whole. Not to enlarge thereupon, the Divisions of the Royal Family cost the Lives of the Dukes of *Orleans* and *Burgundy*, who were assassinated, and of two *Dauphins*, who were poison'd; whilst the whole Kingdom was ravaged by the Arms of the victorious *English*, and the *French* were reduced so low, that they were forced to recognize *Henry V.* as Regent of the Kingdom, and Heir to the Crown, after the Decease of the King then reigning; such were the fatal Effects of the Dissention in the Royal Family in *France*, not mentioning the Massacre of several Thousands in *Paris*, and other Parts of the Kingdom; whilst each Faction were governed by the violent Councils of self-interested and ambitious Ministers.

The unfortunate Reign of *Henry VI.* his Son, a Prince of a good natural Disposition, but weak, gave *France* Time to take Breath, and recover what they lost in the Reign of the victorious *Henry V.* In Effect the Spirit of Discord seemed to have taken her Flight back to *England*; where the Dissentions of the Duke of *Gloucester*, and the haughty Cardinal of *Winchester*, with the Ambition and high Spirit of *Margaret*, *Henry VI.*'s Queen, who was governed by wicked Counsellors, caused perpetual Distractions; which ended, after a Sea of Bloodshed, in the Murder of the Duke of *Gloucester*, the deposing of *Henry* himself, and at last in his violent Death, and that of the Prince his only Son. For all these Calamities, as well as his untimely End, was poor *Henry* indebted to the weak, violent, self-interested and wicked Counsels of the Cardinal of *Winchester*, the Duke of *Somerset*. and Duke

Duke of *Suffolk*, who entirely governed the Queen, as she did the King.

The Reign of *Edward IV.* Successor to *Henry VI.* though he might having taken Warning by the Fate of his Predecessor, was not entirely free from Domestick Troubles, which proved fatal in the End to his whole Family. An unseasonable Jealousy of his second Brother the Duke of *Clarence*, which was artfully instilled into him by the Queen and his younger Brother the Duke of *Gloucester*, whose Interest it was so to do, caused his Death, which if it did not prove fatal to *Henry* himself, as it is said to have been by some, who accuse the Duke of *Gloucester* of poisoning him, at least caused the Death of his two Sons, who were murdered by their wicked and Ambitious Uncle, and at last proved the Death of that Uncle, *Richard III.* himself. Add to this, the Numbers of Noble Lords that bled upon the Scaffold, and the Sea of Blood that was shed in the Field, and it is scarce possible to find a more melancholy Scene, the constant Consequences of Domestick Divisions, and being governed by ill Counsels.

During the Reign of *Edward IV.* the Kingdom of *Scotland* was likewise a melancholy Instance of this fatal Truth; when the Division, between *James III.* who was entirely swayed by three mean and worthless Ministers and Favourites, and his Brothers, caused the Death not only of the two Brothers, but of the King himself, and his three worthless Favourites, who were deservedly hanged for their Male-Administration.

After this we have few Examples, of any Divisions in the Royal Family of *England*, that were productive of fatal Consequences; but we believe these are sufficient to fill all good Subjects with a Dread of such, at any Time hereafter; and an Abhorrence of all such, as by their evil Course shall endeavour to foment them.

F I N I S.

